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Taking Crimea the only just thing to do, Putin says

Russian president says he is merely correcting past and present wrongs PAGE 12

Finance minister calls it quits

Jim Flaherty leaves 'feeling fulfilled' after seeing Canada through recession, will retain seat in House of Commons PAGES 10 & 11

VICTORY OVER SABRES

Torrey Mitchell of the Buffalo Sabres and teammate Mike Weber look on as Joe Colborne celebrates his goal in Calgary on Tuesday. The Flames won 3-1. Story, page 28. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police open to taking pot from patients

Federal reforms. Decision on legal challenge of marijuana laws coming Friday

JEREMY NOLAIS
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If kitty litter and water won't destroy your medical marijuana, southern Alberta police appear willing to take the drug off your hands, no questions asked.

Federal reforms loom on April 1 that will make illegal all home marijuana grow operations. In advance, Health Canada has suggested current patients still sitting on a stash to use a mixture of kitty litter and water to properly dispose of it.

But Staff Sgt. Keith Hurley with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams said details are also being finalized for a police-initiated pot drop-off or pickup for patients hoping to comply with the new regulations.

"If they so choose — they want to have it properly disposed of — they can turn it over to the police, and there isn't any repercussions on them," he said. "We're going to have a grace period, albeit a short one."

Hurley said final details were still being sussed out but said patients would be provided with details ahead of the April 1 changes.

Health Canada has come under fire from marijuana users again in recent days after indicating all current patients in the medicinal program must submit a signed form by April 30 confirming they have ceased growing the drug. Those who fail to comply will be reported to police, the federal health body said.

"Most patients I've heard from — and me personally — won't be sending a letter in," said Aaron Bott, who operates Alberta's only marijuana dispensary. "That letter, you would be endorsing what Health Canada says, which is they don't support medical marijuana."

Meanwhile, Hurley said his team is merely trying to assist patients attempting to follow the new guidelines.

"Our job isn't to turn around and be nailing people come April 1," he said. "It's business as usual for us. We respond to public complaints.... If charges are warranted in some cases, then we'll deal with that accordingly."

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Advisory board

Transit customer group aims to fix the little things

Ricardo Hoar knows it's the little things often fuelling gripes against the city's public transit system.

For Hoar, it was the new-year frustration in tossing out his fare booklets when price tweaks made them unworkable for the CTrain.

Bus riders could toss in an extra nickel or dime to compensate, but Hoar — as an LRT-only customer — found himself trashing the booklets instead of updating them through a time-consuming process.

"It creates a negative opinion of transit," he said Tuesday. "That's what we were worried about."

That "we" Hoar referenced is Calgary Transit's customer advisory board, which was formed in late 2011 to deal with little beefs. The 15-member group officially meets quarterly, but sometimes more often.

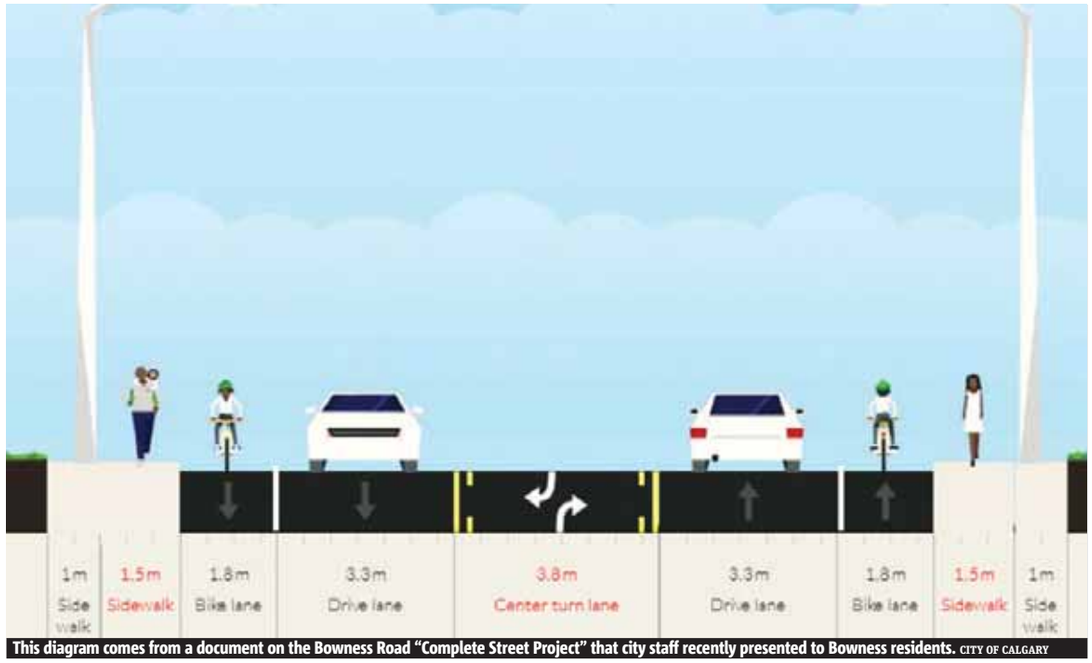
Now in its second two-year term, the group recently published a letter highlighting its efforts to shape customer-service upgrades. Examples include non-expiring ticket booklets, unified waste and recycling bins and customer-friendly designs for the new LRT cars.

"One of the big things they do is help us prioritize the little things," said Chris Jordan, strategic planning manager at Calgary Transit.

Jordan acknowledged some of the "big wins" are still coming on board this year, mainly the new website and mobile apps.

"That's the biggest item this year," echoed second-term advisor Chris Larsen. "By everyone's admission, the current state of the website isn't good — it's dated."

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO



This diagram comes from a document on the Bowness Road "Complete Street Project" that city staff recently presented to Bowness residents. CITY OF CALGARY

Bowness bikers could soon have own lanes

Concept plan. Painted lines would divide bike lanes from traffic

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Two kilometres of Bowness Road would see one lane of motor-vehicle traffic eliminated and two bicycle lanes added under a concept plan that, if approved, could happen later this year.

The curved section of roadway that stretches from 48 Avenue to 70 Street NW is due for resurfacing this summer, said Joe Olson of the city's transportation planning department, making it a "much more affordable" time to paint bike lanes.

Long overdue?

"We already had this identified as a bike route that we wanted to do, since 2000."

Joe Olson of Calgary's transportation planning department

"We already had this identified as a bike route that we wanted to do, since 2000," Olson added.

Traffic volumes are lower now than in the late 1980s, according to city data, and have stayed steady at roughly 11,000 trips per day for the past decade.

Olson said that makes the road a "good candidate" for taking the current four lanes of motor-vehicle traffic down to three and adding the bike lanes, which would also serve as a traffic-calming measure.

That's something area residents are eager to see, given the nearby homes and school, said Mike Crawford of the Bowness Community Association.

"Everybody wants to see some traffic calming and safer roads there," he said. "The bike lanes are kind of seen as an incidental, or a freebie."

The community association is currently gathering public feedback on the overall plan.

Coun. Ward Sutherland said he's "neutral" on the idea at the moment and would like to hear more from area residents. He said he has concerns about traffic flows increasing over time, however.

Darren Bender of Bike Calgary said the route is already popular for cyclists — he rides it regularly — but the addition of bike lanes would offer an extra layer of comfort for less experienced riders.

"I might take my daughter on that route now, where I wouldn't before," he said.

City's deaf to have text-to-911

Starting Monday, Calgarians with hearing or speech impairments will be able to communicate with 911 operators via text message.

The service is to be made available on March 24, according to the city and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

"We're really excited about this," said Mona Hennenfent, executive director of Deaf and Hear Alberta. "It's essential, and we're really happy to see it finally happen."

Surprised?

1%

Approximately one per cent of the population is deaf, according to Mona Hennenfent of Deaf and Hear Alberta.

People with hearing impairments will need to register for the service through a three-step process, she added, but it's relatively straightforward to do.

"They kept it really basic and simple," Hennenfent said.

In a statement, CRTC chairman Jean-Pierre Blais congratulated Calgary's emergency call centre "for moving so quickly in making the changes required to support this service" and called on other jurisdictions to do the same.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Disgruntled. Redford gives her dissidents some space

Alberta Premier Alison Redford's house leader says two rookie backbench MLAs openly challenging her will be left alone for now.

"Those two members will make their decisions (on whether to quit Redford's caucus) in a timely fashion, and I'll respect those decisions," Robin Campbell told reporters Tuesday.

Campbell said while he would prefer critical comments from dissidents like Steve Young and Matt Jeneroux be kept in-house in caucus, they all respect free speech.

Redford has been struggling in recent days to quell a caucus revolt stemming from her lavish travel spending and accusations she is an angry, abusive boss.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CBE trustees approve school wish list, full review pledged

Public input under scrutiny. Board chair votes against plan for second year in a row

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Calgary trustees approved the latest edition of a public-school wish list Tuesday — but without the backing of their top member and amid concerns from some parents that the document is flawed.

The Calgary Board of Education's 2015-2018 capital plan lists a middle school for the communities of West Springs and Cougar Ridge as its top new-school request to the province, followed by a high school in the southeast planned for the Seton area and an elementary school in the northeast of Saddle Ridge.

"The only real concern I have is that, while we have a lot of good information here — we have, I think, defensible mechanisms — we really haven't, in many years, allowed for a significant amount of time for the public to view this information and for a significant amount of authentic feedback to be heard," said CBE trustee chair Sheila Taylor.

Ann Clarke, president of the Kingsland Community Association, said she's been calling the CBE for three years about a proposed retrofit of an area centre to house a campus for the adult-learning-focused Chinook Learning Services. That project sits No. 5 on the CBE's capital plan modernization list.

But Clarke said there's limited room for parking, fears about an estimated 4,500 more vehicle trips in the neighbourhood on the average weekday and still outlying hopes the facility will be turned back into an elementary school.

"There's been no consultation, whatsoever.... We'll be overrun," she said.

CBE administrators conceded their criteria for developing the list may be dated — a chief concern, according to Supt. for infrastructure Frank Coppinger, is that the average outlying Calgary community nowadays is far larger than those developed in previous decades.

Coppinger told trustees there are currently 23 developing communities on the city's outer perimeter.

Online

For more on CBE's 2015-2018 capital plan, head to metronews.ca.

Ann Clarke and Brandy MacInnis, both with the Kingsland Community Association, were all smiles after speaking at the Calgary Board of Education trustee meeting but say they have serious concerns about a proposed modernization project in their neighbourhood. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

"If schools are not approved in those areas, we are required to transport those students to inner-city areas," he said. "We may well run out of bus drivers in the City of Calgary in order to accomplish that."

He pledged a full review of the plan, including discussions with the public, and hopes to have it completed by year's end.

Trustee Pamela King conceded that developing the capital plan may very well be an "exercise in futility" as she doesn't anticipate additional capital announcements in the coming school year.

Discussion regarding the capital plan went on for hours Tuesday, and evidence remained of a sharp divide among board members. Previously, a conference call to Metro erupted in accusations among trustees of certain members using the media to get their way.

Trustee Amber Stewart was accused of being driven by political motives when she attempted to move the southeast high school to the plan's No. 1 spot.

Modulars

Trustee asks if casino cash can aid school crunch

As Calgary schools bulge under the weight of student growth, a trustee is suggesting it may be time to roll the dice on a new source of funding.

Judy Hehr, Calgary Board of Education representative for Wards 8 and 9, pointed out in an interview Tuesday that many city school societies host casino fundraisers every 18 months to provide new technology and other amenities for their kids.

Now, Hehr says it may be wise to use some of those high-rolling dollars to erect modulars.

"Casino monies right now are earmarked," she said. "What we'd need to look at is: could those earmarked be put into capital?"

Hehr discussed the matter with a group of parents Monday in advance of a trustee debate on the organization's 2015-2018 capital plan. Modulars can ease space constraints and allow more students to learn closer to home.

However, a document on the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission's website outlines ineligible uses for casino earnings, including "supplementing operational or capital budgets of the school, such as employee salaries, wages and benefits, building additions, renovations and utilities." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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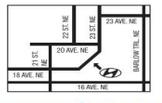

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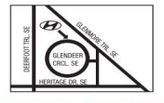

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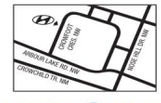

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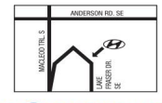

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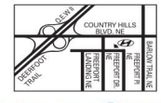

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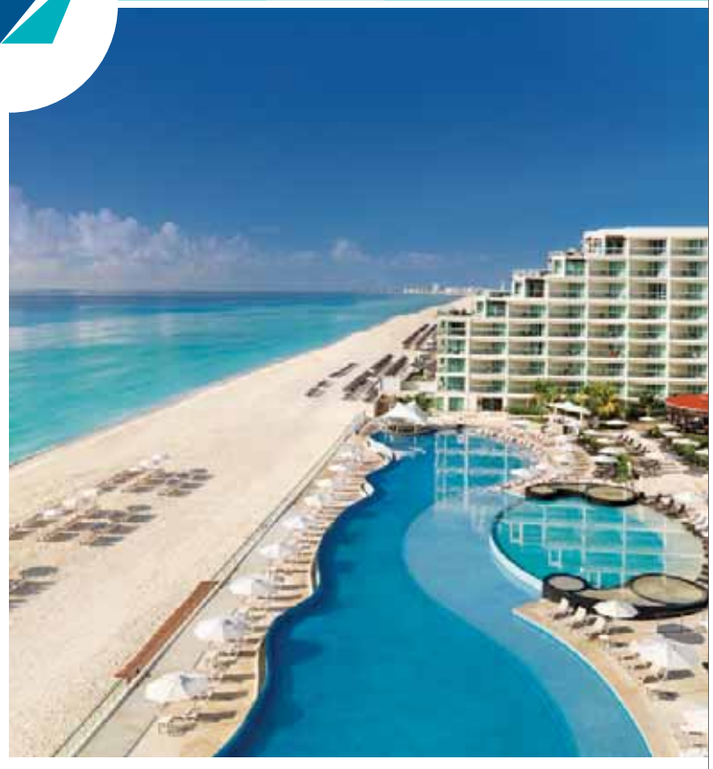

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Conner Brown, left, Erik Termuende, right, and Ben Cannon are all heading to London and will use Red Bull energy drinks as currency to make their way to Berlin. COURTESY BEN CANNON

U of C trio to use Red Bull as currency for trans-Euro trek

Energy-drink endeavour. Team says work as student leaders will give them advantage in competition

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

If three University of Calgary student leaders can't barter for a boat, bike or bus in London next month they may just have to grow wings and fly to Berlin.

The group — consisting of University of Calgary Students' Union representatives Conner Brown, Ben Cannon and Erik Termuende — has been chosen as one of 100 teams from around the world to partake in the Can You Make It competition hosted by energy-drink provider Red Bull.

They will be given 24 cans of Red Bull and a single cellphone. Their objective is to trek from London to Berlin using the energy drink as currency to barter for rides, food and other necessities.

Along the way, the teams will also compete in challenges to net more cans of Red Bull, earning points for "likes" on their online page, number of energy-drink transactions and for the different modes of transportation they utilize.

The team believes their work advocating for the common student will serve them well on the competition trail.

"Heck, you want to talk about negotiating your way to achieving your goals with very little to bargain with? That's definitely been this year as an SU executive in a nutshell," said Cannon, who serves as vice-president of student life.

Some opposing teams will start in locales like Paris and Vienna. A particularly difficult portion of the trek for the U of C Executive Team will be crossing the English Channel.

"We haven't really thought that part through yet," conceded Brown, the union's vice-president external. "You can either take a boat or take a train underground."

Termuende, meanwhile, confidently listed the strengths of each team member.

"I have strategic mindset that will help plan the route and transportation, Conner is political and good at negotiating, and Ben uses his humour to get ahead (with) people," he said. "A mix of three should work well."

April launch

4

The Executive Team, as the University of Calgary trio will be known, officially begins its quest April 4. To visit their competition page, head to redbullcanyoumakeit.com/teams/the-executive-team/69/ or visit metronews.ca.

He's had enough of winter, too. Banff grizzly decides spring has arrived

Officials at Banff National Park say the first bear of spring could be a sign that Alberta's long, cold winter may finally be on its way out.

Banff resource officer Mike Grande says the 225-kilogram male grizzly was slowly making its way through deep snow when it was spotted by a rail crew a couple of days ago about 15 kilometres west of the Banff town site.

He says the animal still had plenty of winter fat, and, despite the heavy snow, was probably lured out of hibernation by warmer weather after months of below-average temperatures.

This cellphone photo shows the first 2014 sighting of a grizzly bear in the area west of Banff. MIKE GRANDE/PARKS CANADA

"In terms of an emergence, this is about as early as it normally happens. That's not a bad sign for sure," said Grande.

Grande estimates the bear bedded down in late December. Since bears can usually live off their fat stores for four or five months, this one was in pretty good shape after snoozing for only three months. The usual time to emerge from the den is early April.

Female bears with cubs usually don't risk venturing out until early May.

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Home Depot card scam.
Calgary family faces 144 fraud charges

Authorities allege one family pocketed $56,000 in an identification-theft ring involving Home Depot credit cards.

On Tuesday, Calgary cops declared five family members have been slapped with 144 charges related to a 19-month crime spree ending in October 2013.

The suspects are accused of stealing personal ID information from 15 cars parked in Calgary, Banff and Invermere. Police say that information was used to obtain credit cards from Home Depot. Investigators claim the suspects used the ill-gotten plastic to buy gift cards, which were later peddled for a bargain price. METRO

The accused

Jennifer Marie Shepherd, 27, Andrew James Shepherd, 32, Carol Lee Shepherd, 52, Darcy Frederick Shepherd, 50, and Sarah Annie Savoie collectively face a total of 144 criminal charges.

Mall dash

Alleged streaker charged

Mounties credit eyewitness reports and mall surveillance cameras for identifying a man suspected of running naked through a Hinton shopping centre.

Police say a 60-year-old man was spotted in the buff by Parks West Mall shoppers about 11:30 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day.

On Tuesday, authorities declared the suspect was arrested — fully dressed — in Jasper, shortly after the report. He has been charged with one count of public nudity. METRO

Calgary's The D closes and plans to move — again

The Distillery co-owners Sean Close, Mark Russell and Philly Roach are seen in this photo, taken the last time they changed venues. METRO FILE

Punk, metal, hip hop.
Popular venue has been home to many musical performances

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

For the second time in just over a year, a popular Calgary music venue has been forced to shut down and seek a new location.

The D, formerly known as the Distillery, closed up shop at its Eau Claire location on Friday, after inhabiting the space for just over a year.

The closure came after a hearing on Feb. 21, in which the city decided to revoke the D's entertainment and patio licences, citing numerous noise complaints from nearby residents.

The D had the option to appeal the ruling, but manager Katie Bevan said the decision was made to look for a new home instead.

Previously located next to the C-Train platform at 7 Avenue and 5 Street SW, the venue was hit with a surprise eviction notice in November 2012 due to a lease dispute. It reopened in Eau Claire in February 2013. A new location hasn't been finalized.

Quoted

"There's a concern that, because of all the noise complaints ... the place was operating outside of its land-use permit to be a restaurant."

City chief licence inspector Kent Pallister, on the decision to revoke the D's entertainment licence at its Eau Claire location, which is surrounded by condos.

Record-breaking temperatures. That's what I'll be thinking about.
What will you be thinking about during your moment of darkness?
Think about the future you want when you turn the lights off for Earth Hour on March 29, 8:30-9:30 p.m.
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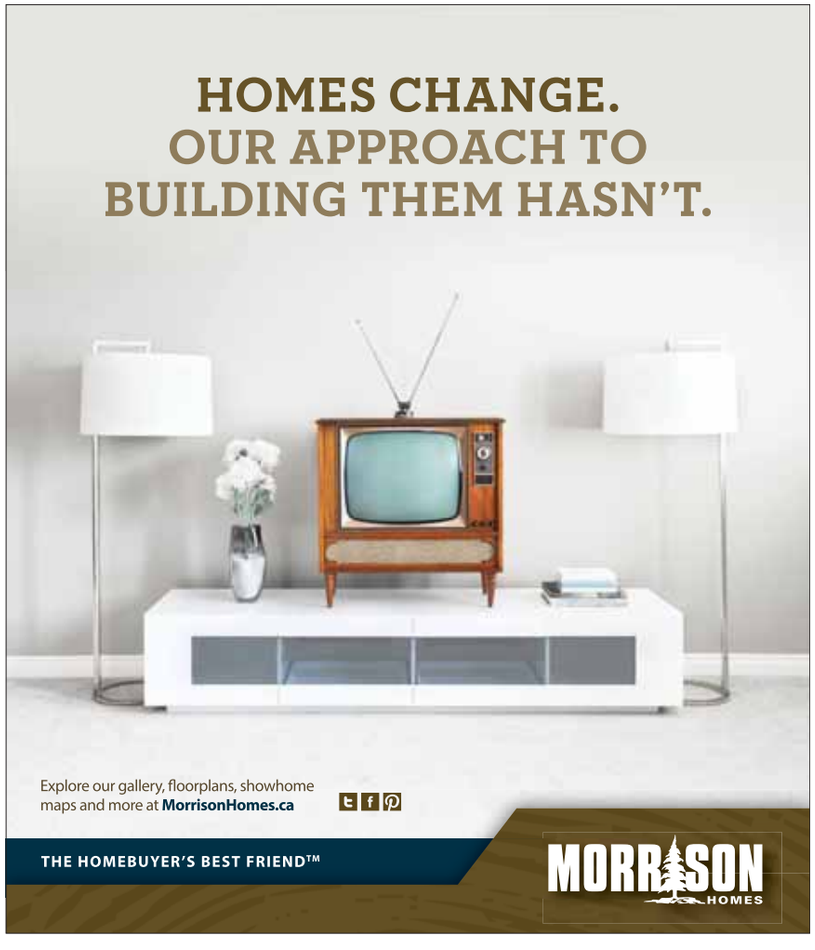
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Optima SX AT shown△

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"BEST ECONOMY CAR" MOTORING 2014

Forte SX shown△

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Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $76 bi-weekly payments include $640 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $96. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.*

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Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $96 bi-weekly payments include $1,504 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP551E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $143. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.*

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A car burns at the scene of a helicopter crash outside the KOMO-TV studios near the Seattle Space Needle on Tuesday.
KELLY KOOPMANS/KOMO-TV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seattle. City to revisit policy on helicopter landing pads after crash

The city of Seattle will re-examine its policy on helicopter landing pads in response to Tuesday's fatal crash at a busy downtown intersection.

Mayor Ed Murray said at a news conference hours after the wreck that Seattle's regulations on helipads changed at least 20 years ago, when the city instituted more rules and limited where helicopters could take off and land.

"In consultation with the council, we will decide if we need to adjust our policies," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians welcome troops home

MCpl. Anthony Alliot and Sarah Tooth embrace after the last Canadian troops from Afghanistan arrived home to tears, hugs from family and friends and a pledge from sacrifices. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Choosing the program that's right for you is a big decision. That's why SAIT Polytechnic offers information sessions – your golden opportunity to discover your program options, ask questions, and sometimes, tour our campus. Our sessions are free and range in topic and timing. Details on all our sessions can be found on the events calendar at sait.ca. Here are just a few we're offering this month:

FAST-TRACK INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING
Now is the time to train in one of SAIT's accelerated, skills-based FAST-TRACK Information Technology programs and launch your career as an IT professional in just a few months! Seats are available for the following programs: • Business Intelligence: Data Analysis and Reporting • Database Administrator• Technology Infrastructure Management • Network Technician • Object-Oriented Software Developer • Web Developer

Join us on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm in Room MD321 in the Stan Grad Centre. Email fast-track@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

JOURNALISM AND PHOTOJOURNALISM
Interested in a career that combines your creativity with your resourcefulness? The Journalism and photojournalism programs at SAIT are the perfect solution as they focus on communications, News writing, and photojournalism. Get trained at SAIT, and start a career that you will love.

Join us on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm in Room H101 in the Senator Burns Building.
Call 403.284.8849 or Email ja.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

AUTOMOTIVE CAREERS
If you have a passion for cars and want a career in the automotive industry, this session is right for you. Learn more about:
· Automotive Service Technology diploma · Automotive Service Technician apprenticeship · Business Administration – Automotive Management

Join us Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30 pm in the Clayton Carroll Automotive Centre.
Call 403.284.8471 or Email transportation.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance and for more information.

RAILWAY CONDUCTOR
Get your future on track in just 15 short weeks and become a Railway Conductor! This program offers a high graduate employment rate, hands-on training and excellent starting wages.

Join us Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30 pm at the Centre for Rail Training and Technology – 1940 Centre Avenue NE.
Call 403.210.4150 or Email rail@sait.ca to confirm your attendance and for more information.

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Join us on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm in the Orpheus Theatre, Campus Centre.
Call 403.284.8641 or Email ma.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

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Join us Wednesday, March 19 at 6:00 pm in Room MA127 in Heritage Hall.
Call 403.284.7333 or Email hps.info@sait.ca to confirm your attendance or for more information.

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Flaherty as finance

'I leave feeling fulfilled.' Flaherty is among Canada's longest-serving finance ministers

Jim Flaherty is leaving the federal cabinet after more than eight years as finance minister to prepare for a return to the private sector, saying the move is unrelated to his recent health problems.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to name his replacement Wednesday.

Flaherty, who delivered his final budget last month, said he made the decision with his family earlier this year.

"As I begin another chapter in my life, I leave feeling fulfilled with what we have accomplished as a government and a country during one of the most challenging economic periods in our country's history," he said in a statement.

An official in the Prime Minister's Office said Flaherty would be retaining — at least for now — his seat in the House of Commons, meaning he remains an MP for the time being.

Flaherty is among Canada's longest-serving finance ministers, appointed to the key economic post when the Conservative government first came to power in 2006.

He managed the country's economy through one of its worst economic crises in 2008-2009, running up large deficits but leaving the books virtually balanced after his Feb. 11 budget.

Speculation about Flaherty's future has risen in recent years after he acknowledged suffering from a rare

Replacement

Media outlets reported Tuesday night that Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver will replace Flaherty.

from Afghanistan

Afghanistan returned to Ottawa on Tuesday. The last Canadian soldiers to leave
Stephen Harper that May 9 will be set aside to honour their contributions and

resigns minister

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty stands in the House of Commons during question period on Parliament Hill earlier this month. Flaherty says he is leaving the federal cabinet and returning to the private sector.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

skin condition, requiring him to take medication that led to weight gain and apparent fatigue in public appearances.

His long farewell message to Canadians, delivered unexpectedly on a government website, listed accomplishments such as cooling the housing market and introducing tax-free savings accounts.

Harper, who has staked his government's reputation on steady economic management, said he regretted the loss of his No. 1 money man.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll. 1 in 4 Canadian kids admit to cyberbullying

About one in four Canadian kids surveyed about cyberbullying admitted they have been "mean or cruel" to someone online, while more than one in three say they've been a victim, according to a newly released study.

But experts say cyberbullying is probably not as rampant or serious as some parents would believe.

Most commonly, students said the bullying act they committed was name-calling (78 per cent), while very few students owned up to more serious bad behaviour. Seven per cent said they teased a peer about their sexual orientation, and four per cent said they sexually harassed someone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical pot

Lawyer says new growing laws unconstitutional

A lawyer for a group of medical marijuana patients has told a Federal Court judge that stopping his clients from growing their own pot at the end of this month would violate their charter rights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Compensation fund

Children of Pickton victims share $4.9M

Ninety-eight children will divide $4.9 million in compensation for the loss of their mothers to serial killer Robert Pickton or other predators in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vladimir Putin welcomes Crimea back into the fold

Annexation. Russian president dismisses criticism, blasting the West as hypocrites and Ukraine as run by radical nationalists

Thousands of pro-Russian people watch a live broadcast of Russian President Vladimir Putin's speech on Crimea in Sevastopol, Crimea, Tuesday. Fiercely defending Russia's move to annex Crimea, Putin said Russia had to respond to what he described as a plot by the West to take Ukraine into its influence. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With a sweep of his pen, President Vladimir Putin added Crimea to the map of Russia on Tuesday, describing the move as correcting a past injustice and responding to what he called Western encroachment upon Russia's vital interests.

While his actions were met with cheers in Crimea and Russia, Ukraine's new government called Putin a threat to the whole world and U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden warned that the U.S. and Europe will impose further sanctions against Moscow.

"The world has seen through Russia's actions and has rejected the flawed logic," Biden said as he met with European leaders in Poland.

In an emotional 40-minute speech televised live from the Kremlin, Putin said he was merely restoring order to history by incorporating Crimea.

"In people's hearts and minds, Crimea has always been an integral part of Russia," he declared, dismissing Western criticism of Sunday's Crimean referendum as a manifestation of the West's double standards.

Often interrupted by applause, Putin said the rights of ethnic Russians in Ukraine had been abused by the new Ukrainian government and insisted that Crimea's vote to join Russia was in line with international law and reflected its right for self-determination.

Putin said his actions followed what he described as Western arrogance, hypocrisy and pressure, and warned that the West must drop its stubborn refusal to take Russian concerns into account.

"If you push a spring too hard at some point it will spring back," he said, addressing the West. "You always need to remember this."

While Putin boasted that the Russian takeover of Crimea was conducted without a single shot, a Ukrainian military spokesman said one Ukrainian serviceman was killed and another injured when a military facility in Crimea was stormed Tuesday by armed men just hours after Putin's speech.

Putin argued that the months of protests in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv which prompted President Viktor Yanukovych to flee to Russia had been instigated by the West to weaken Russia. He cast the new Ukrainian government as illegitimate, driven by radical "nationalists, neo-Nazis, Russophobes and anti-Semites."

In response, Ukraine's new government called Putin dangerous.

"Today's statement by Putin showed in high relief what a real threat Russia is for the civilized world and international security," Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman Evhen Perebinis said on Twitter. "(The annexation) has nothing to do with law or with democracy or sensible thinking."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I have heard residents of Crimea say that back in 1991 they were handed over like a sack of potatoes."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who declared that the collapse of the Soviet Union made Russians "the largest divided people in the world."

The view from home

Canadian sanctions won't isolate Russia, says ambassador

Russia's ambassador to Canada says sanctions from the West over Ukraine won't isolate his country, and expelling it from the G8 would only hurt stability around the world.

Energy-thirsty Asian countries such as China are waiting in the wings if Europe and North America decide they won't want Russia's resources, Georgiy Mamedov said Tuesday.

"Look at the map," he said. "Half of Russia is in Asia. So even if — and I don't think that western countries are, you know, adventuristic or crazy enough to shoot themselves in the leg and to undercut mutually beneficial energy and other relationship with Russia — but even if they did, the longest border in the world that we have is with China, not with Belgium and not with Canada, unfortunately."

Canada joined other countries in imposing sanctions on Russia as a result of Sunday's vote in Crimea, but Mamedov shrugged off the sanctions. "I've been around and you can't isolate Russia," he said.

There was some confusion Tuesday over whether Russia would be suspended from the Group of Eight leading industrial countries.

France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told a European radio station that G8 leaders had "decided to suspend Russia's participation." Britain's Foreign Office, meanwhile, said that Russia is still part of the G8, but did not rule out a suspension. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Serbia

Suspected drug kingpin arrested

Darko Saric, the most wanted suspected drug lord in the Balkans, was arrested Tuesday after surrendering to Serbian authorities, government officials said.

Saric has been on the run since 2009 when a shipment of cocaine he allegedly organized was disrupted near the Uruguayan coast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Africa

Hundreds of migrants storm Spanish enclave

Some 500 stone-throwing migrants from sub-Saharan Africa forced their way into the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco on Tuesday in one of the biggest illegal border-crossings of recent years, Spanish and Moroccan officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Authorities arrest elderly former Auschwitz guard

German authorities have arrested a 93-year-old man on suspicion of "multiple counts" of accessory to murder while he was a SS guard in the Auschwitz death in September 1944 — a time when prosecutors say more than 1,700 people were sent to the camp's gas chambers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Swithering' Scots have power to break up U.K.

Scotland's swithering "middle million" has Britain's future in its hands.

"Swithering" means wavering, and it's a word you hear a lot in Scotland right now. Six months from now, Scottish voters must decide whether their country should become independent, breaking up Great Britain as it has existed for 300 years.

Faced with the choice, many find their hearts say "aye" but their heads say "why risk it?" Polls suggest as many as a quarter of Scotland's 4 million voters remain undecided, and their choices will determine the outcome.

Many long to cut the ties binding them to England, but fear the risks — and the financial fallout.

The two countries united in 1707 to form Great Britain, with a shared monarch, currency, and a London-based government.

It has always been a lopsided relationship — England's population is 10 times Scotland's 5.3 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A boy prays for the missing plane in Malaysia on Tuesday. JOSHUA PAUL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai military radar may have seen plane

MH370. 10-day-old info may not change what officials know, but it raises questions about sharing data

Investigators trying to solve the mystery of a missing Malaysian jetliner received some belated help Tuesday from Thailand, whose military said it took 10 days to report radar blips that might have been the plane "because we did not pay attention to it."

A coalition of 26 countries, including Thailand, is looking for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which vanished March 8 with 239 people aboard on a night flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

Search crews are scouring two giant arcs of territory amounting to the size of Australia — half of it in the remote seas of the southern Indian Ocean.

Malaysian officials said early in the search that they suspected the plane backtracked and flew toward the Strait of Malacca, just west of Malaysia. But it took a week for them to confirm Malaysian military radar data that suggested that route.

On Tuesday, Thai military officials said their own radar showed an unidentified plane flying toward the strait beginning minutes after the Malaysian jet's transponder signal was lost.

An air force spokesman said the Thai military doesn't know whether the plane it detected was Flight 370.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pistorius trial

Defence claims cops bungled case

Police photographs of the scene where Oscar Pistorius shot dead his girlfriend show evidence was moved in violation of procedure during the investigation, the athlete's chief defence lawyer said Tuesday. Pistorius has pleaded not guilty to murder. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

Leader will 'spare no effort' to resolve journalist's case

Egypt's interim president has written to the family of Peter Greste, an Australian journalist being tried on terrorism charges alongside an Egyptian-Canadian and other employees of satellite broadcaster Al-Jazeera.

Adly Mansour has told Greste's family that he will push to expedite the case against the reporter.

"I would like to assure you in my capacity as president of Egypt, that I will spare no effort to work towards the speedy resolution of the case, in a fashion consistent with the law and that guarantees the reunion of the family in the near future," Mansour wrote in the letter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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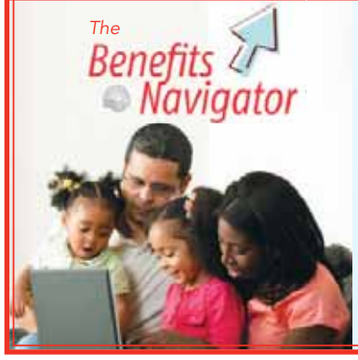

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Want 10% of this guy's starting salary? Then help Robbie find a job

Finding a job sucks.

There are always hundreds of qualified applicants to compete with, so it's basically a crapshoot every time someone drops off a resumé or clicks "Submit" on an online job application.

Couple that with being new in a town where you don't know anyone to nudge you in the right direction and you're in Vancouverite Robbie Cooke's position.

"Well, I moved out to Vancouver late last year and I knew that the job market wasn't amazing out here, but I didn't know it would be this bad," Cooke said. "I heard some places will get thousands of responses or applicants, so one day I figured why not take a different approach."

It was in his most dire moment that Cooke, with his marketing background, cooked up a plan. Instead of going to a traditional headhunter, he went to the biggest headhunter of them all: the Internet.

Robbie Cooke of Vancouver needs your help finding a job. CONTRIBUTED

The result is helprobbiefindajob.com. By way of the site, Cooke is offering 10 per cent of his initial starting salary to anyone who helps him set up an interview and land a job. If he gets $60,000 a year, the go-between gets $6,000 — after the probation period ends.

Since setting up the website on March 15, Cooke said, he's received two offers for interviews, but nothing is official yet.

SAM SMITH/FOR METRO IN VANCOUVER

NANTUCKET 9:42a Delayed
NEW YORK JFK 512 11:25a C27
NEW YORK JFK 6052 10:00a C25 Delayed
NEWARK Liberty 518 11:43a C40 Cancelled
NEWARK Liberty 1199 9:47a Cancelled
NEWARK Liberty 2280 10:04a C25 Cancelled
ORLANDO INTL 1685 11:12a C17 Now 10:56a
ORLANDO INTL 550 10:11a C31 Arrived
PHILADELPHIA 1450 12:54p C34 Delayed
PHILADELPHIA 1776 9:54a C30 Cancelled
PITTSBURGH 160 11:43a C32 Cancelled
PITTSBURGH 1286 10:27a C11 Cancelled
PROVINCETOWN MA 1486 12:38p C29 Cancelled
RALEIGH/DURHAM 208 11:13a C27
jetBlue
UNITED

The winter of flyers' discontent

A flight board shows JetBlue cancellations at Logan International Airport on Jan. 7 in Boston, a day after the airline cancelled nearly all operations into Logan because of bad weather. It was that kind of month for JetBlue, and it was that kind of month for all U.S. airlines, which posted one of their worst January on-time performances ever, as winter storms pounded parts of the country. One-third of all flights arrived late, the rate of cancelled flights was the second-highest ever, and reports of mishandled bags soared. STORY: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; PHOTO: DARREN MCCOLLESTER/GETTY IMAGES

Fan-made content is music to execs' ears

YouTube. User uploads earning music biz more dough than official videos

The recording industry is making more money from fan-made mashups, lip-syncs and tributes on YouTube than from official music videos.

"It's a massive growth area. We're very excited about the creativity of consumers using our repertoire and creating their own versions of our videos," said Francis Keeling, the global head of digital business for Universal Music Group.

With one billion users worldwide, YouTube is the most used music service in the world, according to the annual Music Report released Tuesday by IFPI, an organization that represents 1,300 record companies around the world.

"All record companies make their repertoire available to YouTube," Keeling explained.

The video website, owned by Google, alerts record companies when a YouTube user uploads content that uses a copyrighted song.

Hitting the right notes

New revenue streams are good news for the music industry, which saw a global decline in revenues of 3.9% in 2013 to about $15 billion US.

Rather than order the video removed for copyright infringement, the record company can instead choose to run ads before and during the video, making money off the video's views.

For example, a video of American comedian Steve Kardynal wearing a bikini and lip-synching Carly Rae Jepsen's Call Me Maybe for unsuspecting viewers on Chatroulette racked up more than 14 million views, which earned ad dollars for the record label behind Jepsen's hit single.

User-generated content is actually generating more money for record labels than the official music videos posted by record labels, Keeling said.

"A lot of that is due to consumers putting more and more repertoire and new versions up there, but also it's YouTube getting better at advertising," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian study

Only 41.1% of small businesses have a website

A new study says fewer than half of Canada's small businesses have an online presence and they may be losing out on sales opportunities.

The Canadian Internet Registration Authority says three-quarters of Canadians research purchases online, but only 41.1 per cent of small businesses have a website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 89.79¢ (-0.68¢)

TSX 14,368.97 (+137.08)

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Dow Jones: 16,336.19 (+88.97)

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AND THE MOST FAMOUS CANADIAN IS...

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Quick! Who's the most famous Canadian in the world?

Chris Hadfield, the singing astronaut?

Christopher Plummer, the Oscar-winning actor?

Wayne Gretzky, the Great One?

Nope, it's Avril Lavigne, that's who.

That's if you believe an MIT research project called Pantheon that combed through online references to anyone between 4,000 BC and 2010 who has a Wikipedia reference in more than 25 languages.

It's bad enough that MIT has anointed a pop has-been in the waning stages of her career as the most famous Canadian ever, but our credulity is strained to the breaking point as it goes down the list.

The second most famous Canadian is Jim Carrey? Jim Carrey hasn't had a hit since the '90s and his most recent effort is Dumb and Dumber To.

The outrage continues: Justin Bieber is number three, which makes sense because he's Canadian Bad Boy Number One, right up there with Rob Ford. Number four is Celine Dion, who's certainly famous in Vegas, but number five is Pamela Anderson, who was famous for doing nothing long ago, before she was supplanted by Kim Kardashian.

As statistically sound as it appears to be, the process is obviously flawed. Garbage in, garbage out. What can you expect from research that would have us believe that the world's most famous actor is Molière? (Thousands of commuters call up Molière on their devices, only to discover a 17th century French playwright. Shakespeare would have something to say about that, in iambic pentameter, no less.)

You have to wonder what Avril Lavigne is thinking, as she lounges by the pool out there somewhere in pop-tart land with her arguably more famous husband Chad Kroeger, lead singer for Nickelback. "Like, Chad, I told you I was more famous than you are. In fact, I'm more famous than Pamela Anderson."

I really don't think MIT should be encouraging this sort of thing.

Chad, by the way, did not make the list even though he's the front man for Billboard's top rock group of the 2000s.

The rest of the top 25 list continues to undermine the credibility of the MIT findings. Either that, or I don't get out enough these days. Somebody named Chris Benoit is the 12th most famous Canadian in the world, more famous than Avatar director James Cameron (14) and Marshall McLuhan (17) the man who said "The medium is the message." Boy, was he right on. Just not as famous as Avril Lavigne or Chris Benoit, whoever he is.

It may be this list is telling the truth, and in the words of that famous American Jack Nicholson, we can't handle the truth. So, like most people who don't like what they hear, I propose to ignore all this … data, and go on thinking that Glenn Gould, the world's greatest pianist (19), is more famous, and deservedly so, than some guy named Chris Benoit.

ZOOM

Birds of a spider flock together

JURGEN OTTO /SOLENT NEWS

Spider's display is courtship dance

This male spider tries to attract a female by showing off its colours — just like a peacock. The maratus, also known as the peacock spider, flaunts its stunning blue, red and green flaps to catch the eye of a female. The spider, one of 43 species of maratus, was found by biologist Jurgen Otto near Esperance, Western Australia. METRO

Quoted

"The males do not discriminate between the females of different species and will display their bright bodies to females that belong to other species." Jurgen Otto

Arachnid gives bird's-eye view

This species of peacock spider, the maratus avibus, really does look like a feathered creature.

"The design on the spider's abdomen looks like two birds facing each other — which made experts choose the name 'avibus', meaning 'birds' in Latin," says Otto. METRO

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

It's that time of year again: the dreaded tax season. With a few weeks to go to file, might as well check it off the to-do list now. You can shell out and get your accountant to take care of it, or stay home, brew a cup of coffee and get it done yourself. Here are a few CRA Netfile-certified online/mobile options to (hopefully) take some of the pain away.

ISTOCKIMAGES

SimpleTax:

Relatively new to the tax-filing game, this unique pay-what-you-want model lets users decide how much — if anything — they want to pay.

SnapTax:

Yes, that 'snap' does refer to snapping a pic. Take a photo (iPhone or iPad only) of your T4, fill out a quick (they say) form on your iDevice and voilà. Though, it doesn't work for those with offspring or other dependants — you'll need to use their parent company, TurboTax, for that.

UFile:

UFile is free if you're a tax newbie, student or make less than $20K or have a very simple return (one single T4 and no other fancy account). Filling individual returns start at $16 and lets you add a spouse for $10.

For a full list of Netfile-certified software, programs and apps, go to netfile.gc.ca

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Governments and private companies have their sights on mining the moon. Do you think it's a good idea?

@chiefwrongwolf: why does this need science? mime?? besides this is the Owrst game of charades I have EVER played let me tell you

@Machzy: Agent Smith said it best - humans are a virus - we move to an area and multiply until every natural resource is consumed. Looks like the moon is next!

@tolitojohnson: at least on the moon we won't be destroying our own home and there will be a plentiful supply of resource. It's a win/win.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Filmmaker explores teen genre in Beyond Clueless

SXSW. Documentary examines teen movies from more than 200 not-quite classics

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

First-time filmmaker Charlie Lyne came to SXSW to premiere Beyond Clueless, his exploration of teen movies. Less a traditional, talking heads doc than a lyrical, fluid examination of the genre, Lyne gives the scholarly and artistic treatment to a class of films usually excluded from such pursuits, with narration by Fairuza Balk and visuals from more than 200 teen not-quite classics.

How has it been, bringing your first film to SXSW?

What's nice is it feels like we're repeating the experience of doing the Kickstarter now because it's going out to a load of people who have no idea who any of us are but have some bearing on this subject matter. ... Everyone has that film that they grew up watching and obsessing over, and usually it's a film that is quite singular to them.

So is Clueless that movie for you?

Clueless is a film I completely love and certainly growing up it was one of my five or 10 that I would go back to again and again and again, but actually the ones I always found more fascinating were the ones that, for lack of a better word, aren't quite as good as Clueless.

The teen genre for me is most fascinating when it doesn't quite work, you know? There's plenty of teen movies that I think are unequivocally brilliant — wouldn't change a thing, perfect movies — stuff like Clueless, stuff like Cruel Intentions, that just really work and know themselves.

But the teen movies that I find fascinating are the ones that aren't quite there, that have so much buried beneath the skin but don't quite know what they are. There's so much more going on that even the film itself isn't really aware of — which perfectly mirrors the experience of being a teenager.

So a film with an identity crisis?

Exactly. So many of them seem to have these palpable identity crises going on inside them. Something like Idle Hands. A film about a teenage boy who has an attractive girl move in next door and suddenly finds that he can't control his right hand — it doesn't seem like a stretch to say that's a metaphor for something. And yet you look back at the way people talked about it when it first came out and there's nothing about that. It's all just, "Devon Sawa is reasonably OK in this middling horror vehicle."

First-time filmmaker Charlie Lyne brings his exploration of teen movies to SXSW in Beyond Clueless. CONTRIBUTED

The teen market is also one that never really goes away in Hollywood.

Surely it's the one film genre that openly states who it's for in its very title. I love that about it, I think there's something really interesting about films that are explicitly marketed toward the most malleable, impressionable group. And why wouldn't they be the most fascinating to talk about when they have so much power over people?

I think everyone would be willing to admit that they were in at least some way shaped by the films that they saw at that age. That was what was brilliant and terrifying about doing this film, was watching all these films that I unthinkingly took on at 13 and going, "Oh God, what awful lessons was I learning? What was I accepting about myself on the basis of this film?" So it's been good therapy. I'm now a functional human being after going through my teen movie demons.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kanye sentenced to anger management classes after run-in with paparazzo

Kanye West has been sentenced to two years of probation and 240 hours of community service after pleading no contest to a battery charge stemming from his run-in with a paparazzo last July, according to TMZ.

The rapper must also complete 24 anger management sessions and turn himself in to the LAPD for formal booking. Last summer, West got into a scrape with photographer Daniel Ramos outside the LAX airport.

"Without warning or provocation, Mr. West suddenly attacked Daniel, punching him and attempting to wrestle Daniel's camera from his hands," Ramos' attorney, Gloria Allred, recounted in a statement. Reps from West's camp had no comment.

Kanye West GETTY IMAGES

The Word

Courtney Love finds missing airplane, according to Courtney Love

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Courtney Love is about as stable as Los Angeles was at 6:25 a.m. on Monday. If given the choice, I would not elect Courtney to the position of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 Finder-In-Chief — for that, I'd probably go with an international team of aviation experts.

However, the international team of aviation experts haven't turned up much, have they? Every day they widen the search area so much that I presume we'll soon be looking on the moon. Courtney Love, on the other hand, believes she knows exactly where it is, so maybe we ought to give her a shot.

"I'm no expert but up close this does look like a plane and an oil slick," she tweeted, with a link to a satellite photo showing an empty-looking stretch of ocean.

Love then tweeted that the location was "like a mile away Pulau Perak, where they 'last' tracked it." She also added some childish-looking scrawls over the photo pointing to where she thinks the plane and oil are.

I really don't know what I'll do with myself if it turns out she's right. Then again, Courtney Love Finding Missing People All Around the World Through the Power of MS Paint is definitely a TV show I'd watch.

Eerie posts appear on L'Wren's social media feeds

Designer L'Wren Scott's sudden death Monday was made even more shocking when her social media accounts continued posting several hours after she died.

Because of previously scheduled posts or a PR team that wasn't yet aware of her passing, several Facebook posts and tweets appeared after her death was announced, confusing and upsetting her followers.

Perhaps the eeriest image was a photo of several of Scott's designs hung from a tree and apparently lit from within, which appeared on the designer's Facebook just hours after her death was announced. A strange, ghostly image indeed, after the designer's apparent suicide.

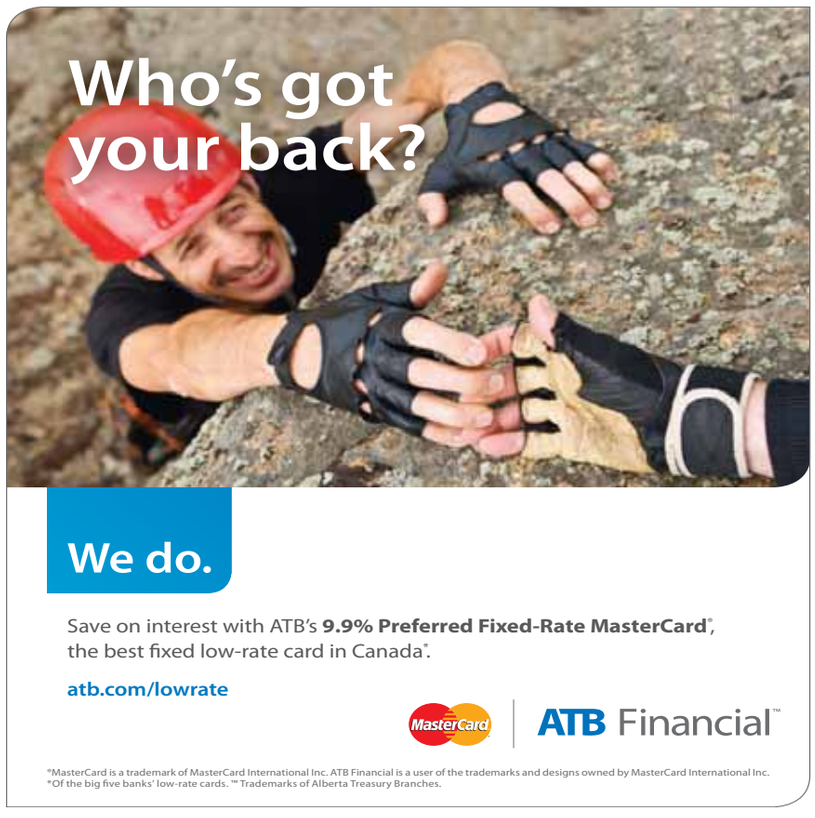
Her Twitter account also remained active, leaving some fans unsure of whether her death was a hoax or not. Fashion blogger Bryan Boy shared a befuddled screenshot and tweeted, "But Lwren tweeted 3 hours ago???"

Scott was Mick Jagger's longtime girlfriend, and The Rolling Stones said Tuesday they have called off tour dates in Australia and New Zealand in the wake of her death.

L'Wren Scott THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The iconic band said in a statement they "are deeply sorry and disappointed to announce the postponement of the rest of their 14 ON FIRE tour." Band members thanked fans "for their support at this difficult time."

The Stones were scheduled to play Wednesday in Perth, Australia, and at other stops this week and next week, including Melbourne and Sydney. WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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There's liquid gold hidden in California wine country, part of an olive oil boom in recent years. You can tour an orchard, learn what extra-virgin olive oil really means and taste your way through lemon-, herb- and even chocolate-infused olive oils. Harvest is usually around the end of the year, but any time is good for a visit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 olive oil trail 'pit' stops

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Round Pond Estate

A family run winery whose owners branched out into olives some years ago, this Rutherford, Calif., estate produces four gourmet olive oils and has an onsite olive mill. If you're pressed for time you can do the Splash and Dash tasting, enjoying olive oils and the estate's red wine vinegars. Visit roundpond.com/olive-mill for more.

SCREEN GRAB/LONGMEADOWRANCH.COM

Long Meadow Ranch

Tailor your visit to be long or short, depending on your inclination. Stop by the winery tasting room in St. Helena to enjoy an olive oil tasting, no appointment needed. For a more in-depth look, visit the winery's Mayacamas Estate. You'll explore the grounds, see the vineyards and visit the oldest olive orchard in Napa County, planted in the 1870s. See longmeadowranch.com.

McEvoy Ranch

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

McEvoy Ranch started when Nan McEvoy, part of the family that founded the San Francisco Chronicle, was looking for a place in the country. She settled on 550 acres in Marin County. Inspired by her love of Tuscan olive oil, she worked with Italian expert Maurizio Castelli to create what is now a thriving business. The ranch is open only at certain times of the year, so you'll need to plan your visit. See mcevoyranch.com.

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The Olive Press

The Olive Press offers a tour of its mill in Sonoma where you can learn about how the oil is made, get tips on how to taste oil like a professional and browse the large store. Tour reservations are required at least a week in advance, and cost varies from free to $20 per person depending on activities selected. See theolivepress.com.

Lucero

Walk into the downtown Napa tasting room of Lucero Olive Oil and you know you're in for some serious tasting. The walls are lined with bottles of olive oil including several infused oils that range from zippy Meyer lemon to a chocolate-infused oil that is delicious on ice cream. Lucero also produces a range of balsamic vinegars, table olives, tapenades and mustards which are available for tasting. See luceroolliveoil.com.

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Pedestrians walk past chef Greg Marchand's restaurant Frenchie in Paris. Marchand, right, has also released a cookbook of the restaurant's recipes for cooks who want to create the dishes at home. MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frenchie chef transforms tiny Parisian side street into his culinary kingdom

Rue du Nil. Greg Marchand is shaking up the block with his bistro-inspired venture

Food nourishes the tiny Rue du Nil from the dim light of morning when the first deliveries start going out to Paris' most sought-after restaurants — until well after midnight, when the young chef who transformed an unchic side street into a culinary destination finally closes up.

In the meantime, sides of beef age in transparent lockers, pastrami is smoked, root vegetables are fondled, and visitors from around the world poke around in the (usually vain) hope that a reservation might open up at Frenchie, the restaurant that started it all.

The first meal Greg Marchand cooked for a crowd was veal in cream sauce — and the dozen or so orphans he shared a home with ate it up. He was subbing for the orphanage cook, who took weekends off. An indifferent student, he enrolled in cooking school after his time in the orphanage ran out at age 17.

"I wasn't the best of the bunch. I had other things to sort out in my life first," he said in a recent interview. "As soon as I finished cooking school, I left France. I wasn't tied to France much."

Marchand's subsequent meandering path — hotel restaurants in London and Hong Kong, a beachside bar in Spain, Jamie Oliver's kitchen, New York's Gramercy Tavern — put him at the crest of bistronomie, the French movement combining highbrow gastronomy and the lowly corner bistro. He returned to France in 2009, just coming into his 30s and into his own as a chef.

The centre of haute cuisine, Paris has been a relative latecomer to the idea of fresh food with local ingredients at prices more for the masses. Marchand, who had by then spent his professional life abroad, was unwittingly ready.

"A lot of young chefs — I'm part of it — open a restaurant with no investor, so with not much money. It's often small places, with no designer work because they cannot afford it. But what we have is a craft, knowledge, experience," he said. "It's often chefs who have been travelling a lot. We have a French base, French cuisine basis, but because of our travel we are much more open-minded on ingredients, on culture, on techniques."

For 48 euros ($75), diners get a three-course meal at Frenchie — Oliver's nickname for Marchand back when he was the only Frenchman in the British chef's kitchen. It's not cheap, but neither is it especially expensive in a city where tourists expecting the world's finest cuisine instead routinely get fleeced in brasseries charging far more for factory-produced meals that are discreetly unwrapped and thawed in the kitchen.

They'll see Marchand peeking out obsessively, serving up some plates himself and unfailingly checking in with customers and mysteriously keeping tabs on comings and goings in the wine bar he runs across the cobblestoned street.

There's nothing fancy about it: the restaurant seats about 30, plates are simple white, and menus come on clipboards. Jeans and sneakers are welcome for staff and customers alike.

And, to be honest, there are not a lot of French voices on the street or inside once the sun goes down. Staff come from all over, and include a smattering of Canadians and Americans. Marchand cheerfully — and frequently — speaks English.

But a visit to Rue du Nil is still worth the trip even for those who can't snag a reservation.

"It has become one of the destinations for shopping and snacking and begging for reservations in the city, which was certainly not the case before he got there five years ago," said Meg Zimbeck, a transplanted Kansan whose website Paris By Mouth is aimed at food-loving visitors to Paris. "He wants to change the way people shop for food, experience food. Not just turn a massive profit."

And Marchand's influence is spreading. When he mentioned an opening on the street, Alexandre Drouard, a 30-year-old whose Terroir d'Avenir supplies Frenchie and dozens of the most sought-after restaurants in Paris, moved in and opened a butcher, a fish shop and a small grocery store. A coffee roaster recently went in, too. Marchand himself expanded to a wine bar (no reservations) and an American-style breakfast and lunch joint whose menu includes pastrami sandwiches, bagels and sticky buns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New book

Aspiring chefs can also check out Marchand's techniques in his cookbook, which goes on sale in English in March.

- It's a radically pared down version of what's on offer in the restaurant, which puts out some truly spectacular dishes in a home-sized kitchen crammed with sous chefs, specialized equipment and ingredients only seen on Rue du Nil.

Under the sea in a Galapagos game of yellow-flippered tag

Close encounters.
Diver's colourful swim fins attract creatures both playful and fierce

AURÉLIE RESCH
For Metro Canada

"This should be your size." Doubtfully, I look at the bright yellow flippers one of the crew members has just given me. I also look at the other travellers putting theirs on; I am the only one with yellow flippers.

Didn't they say on Discovery Channel that sharks are sensitive to this colour? Oh, well — so be it! I might be the only one in the group to come up close and personal with a shark. Dumping my little thoughts, I jump in the water.

Below the turquoise water I discover a very busy world: Schools of fish keep changing direction as I come too close, forming funny compact shapes without ever bumping into each other.

The Galapagos are a paradise for divers and fauna-and-flora aficionados. Each day promises a new encounter. Each island is inhabited by different species.

Boobies and frigates

On Isla Lobos, we encounter blue-footed boobies. These endemic birds do not seem bothered by our presence, they simply stare at us the way we stare at them and keep on about their own business.

In the distance a frigate bird is chasing another that has just emerged from the water with a fish in its beak. The frigate seizes the other bird by the tail and shakes it until it drops the fish.

Sharp lava rocks

Bartolomé Island is notorious for its dramatic lava features. I am in awe as I carefully walk on the black, sharp-as-knives lava rocks. It's like walking on another planet.

Sea lions and tortoises...

Mosquera Island is the refuge for a massive colony of sea lions. In the water, chances are they will surround you. They are even more curious than I am and head for me like torpedoes before abruptly steering away to avoid a collision. The sea lions like my yellow fins and some playfully bite them to check their texture or see how I respond.

A tortoise suddenly catches my eye and I decide to follow her. Her moves are slow and gracious and I enjoy following her until I catch a glimpse of a shape underneath me that freezes me on the spot.

... and a shark, oh my

A shark. Moving lazily. Fascinated, I can't look away from the animal, and I continue to observe as it waves its tail methodically.

The shark accelerates a bit and disappears into the blue.

I'm not sure I should stick around any longer to verify whether sharks really do like yellow.

Nibble on this

The sea lions like my yellow fins and some playfully bite them to check their texture or see how I respond.

How to get there

- Daily flight from Quito and Guayaquil by LAN airline and TACA airline.
- G Adventures offers several cruise options in the Galapagos from a few days to weeks. See gadventures.com.

A Galapagos underwater adventure includes an unexpected meeting with a shark. ISTOCK PHOTOS

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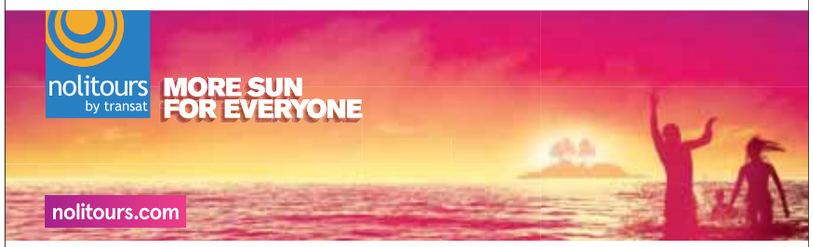

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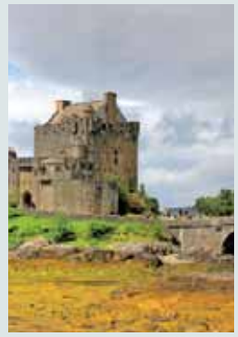

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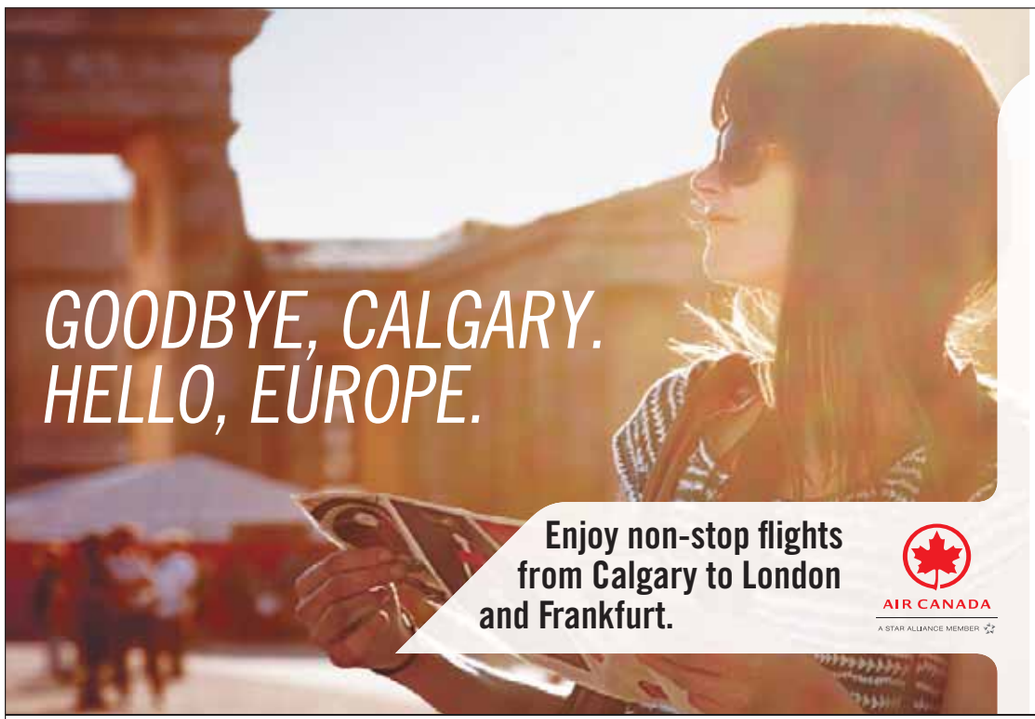

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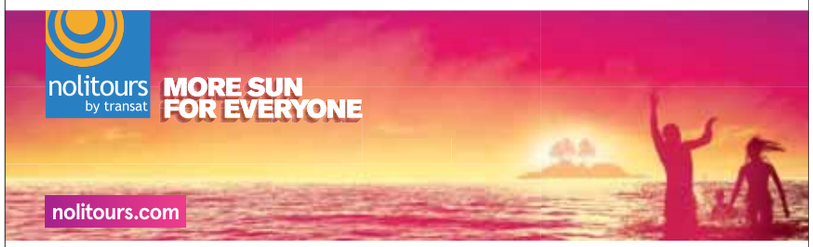

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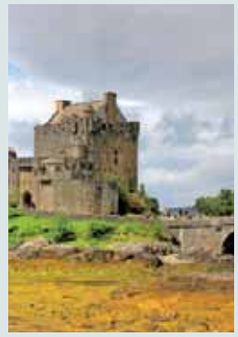

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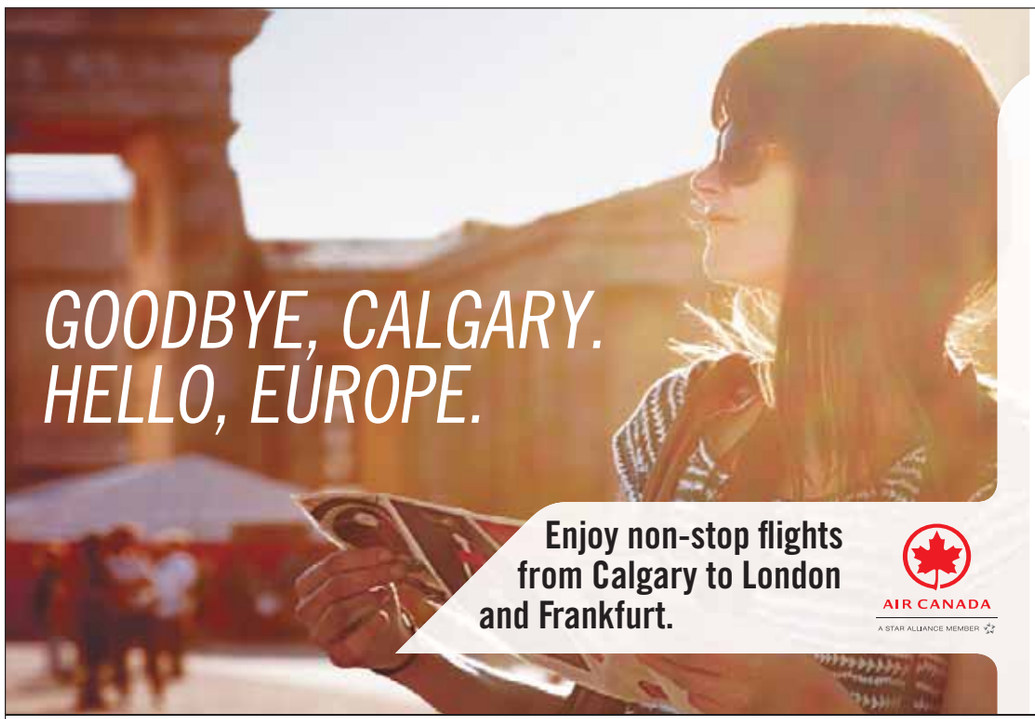

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Clicks, consoles and conversation

Pondering between play. Game makers to explore misogyny, racism and homophobia at annual gathering

Attendees play the Nintendo game Mario Tennis Open on a Nintendo 3DS console before its release at the 2012 Game Developers Conference in San Francisco. This year's conference will go beyond technology to address issues that affect gaming industry workers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The video game industry is taking itself more seriously.

Besides the usual talk of polygons, virtual worlds and artificial intelligence at this week's Game Developers Conference in San Francisco, there will also be planned discussions led by game makers about such socially conscious topics as designing for gamers with disabilities, battling depression at game studios and tackling hate speech in online game communities.

The organizers of GDC, which kicked off Monday at the Moscone Center and continues through Friday, have expanded the conference's advocacy-themed sessions with panels featuring such titles as Beyond Graphics: Reaching the Visually Impaired Gamer, How to Subversively Queer Your Work and Women Don't Want to Work in Games (and Other Myths).

"It's something that in some way or another has always been part of the conference, but it's something that we've found interest in genuinely continue to grow as the industry has become more diverse and inclusive," said Simon Carless, executive vice-president of UBM Tech Game Network, which organizes GDC and several other technology conventions.

This year's conference is expected to attract about 23,000 game developers and executives from across the globe. Carless and other GDC organizers, which includes an advocacy advisory committee made up of game designers, hope that examinations of racism, misogyny and homophobia in games aid the industry's continued fight for wider cultural legitimacy.

Rosalind Wiseman, author of the book Queen Bees and Wannabes, which inspired the Lindsay Lohan film Mean Girls, was part of a Tuesday discussion about gaming and social hierarchies among boys.

The panel was to examine how the games that young men choose to play affect their popularity, as well as their social competence in moments of conflict.

Other speakers will include Adam Orth, who left Microsoft Corp. last year after fiery Twitter exchanges about "always-on" technology; Manveer Heir, a game maker who works on the Mass Effect sci-fi series, which features gay and lesbian characters; and Toshifumi Nakabayashi, who organizes an annual game workshop to support Fukushima disaster victims.

Despite the refreshed focus on real-world issues at the convention, how to view and interact with ever-changing virtual worlds will ultimately take centre stage at GDC.

PlayStation 4 creator Sony Corp. was expected to tease its rendition of virtual reality technology during a presentation called Driving the Future of Innovation at Sony Computer Entertainment.

Meanwhile, a handful of developers will be showing off software using the VR goggles Oculus Rift, which captured attendees' attention at last year's conference. The exhibit ALT.CTRL.GDC will highlight 14 games that utilize such alternative control schemes, like a piano-powered version of the sidescroller Canabalt and a holographic display called Voxiebox.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gab and games

"It's something that in some way or another has always been part of the conference, but it's something that we've found interest in genuinely continue to grow as the industry has become more diverse and inclusive."

Simon Carless on incorporating lectures that tackle real-life issues into the Game Developers Conference itinerary

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One my grandmother's favourite things to eat is Chinese food.

I'm not sure if it's the colourful sauces or the strong differences in flavours from her mother country's Italian food but she sure does enjoy it.

So, at her 85 years of age, I like to make food for her that is hearty and healthy. Here is a version of chicken fried rice that fits the bill.

Luckily, she approves of it — even with the slightly sneaky addition of chickpeas for additional fibre! The chickpeas also add protein to keep you full.

Colourful and easy to make, it should quickly become your grandma's (and entire family's) favourite too.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) brown rice
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sesame oil
- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, chopped (about 12 oz/340 g)
- 1 cup (250 ml) sliced mushrooms
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) sliced celery
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked chickpeas
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sodium reduced soy sauce
- 2 cups (500 ml) bean sprouts

1. In a saucepan, bring 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) of the sodium reduced chicken stock and brown rice to boil.

2. Reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook for about 25 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Fluff with fork and set aside.

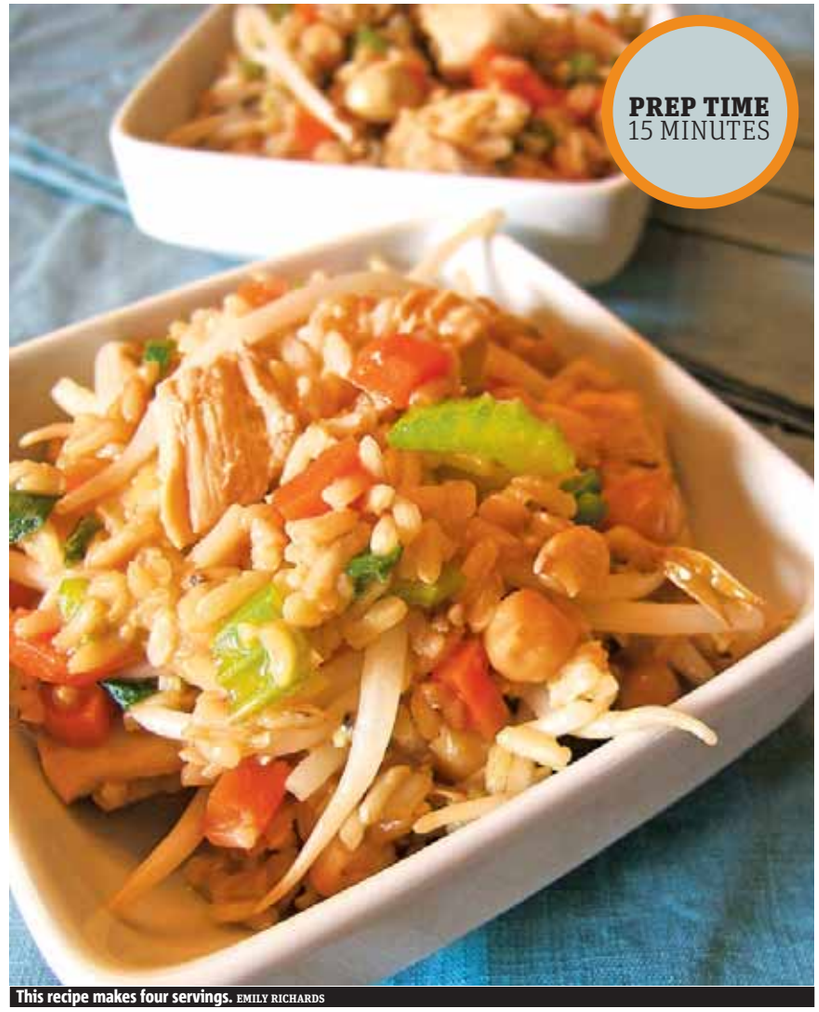
3. In a large nonstick skillet heat the sesame oil over medium high heat and cook boneless skinless chicken and sliced mushrooms for about 8 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink.

4. Add the chopped green onions, diced carrot, sliced celery, cooked chickpeas and cooked rice. Cook, stirring for 2 another minutes to combine all of the flavours.

5. Add the remaining chicken stock and soy sauce and cook for 5 minutes. Add bean sprouts and toss to combine.

Cooking tips

- Vegetarian Fried Rice option: Use vegetable broth for the chicken stock and omit chicken breasts. Use 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) chopped extra firm tofu for the chicken.
- You can use 2 cups (500 ml) of cooked chopped or shredded chicken instead of cooking chicken for the recipe.



This recipe makes four servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Wrap up savoury yet light Asian flavours

Teriyaki Chicken Lettuce Wraps serve eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fried Asian food (think spring rolls, wontons) is a lot of people's fave, but who wants to deep-fry at home? Simple teriyaki chicken served in lettuce wraps is not only full of Asian flavours but healthier too.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- 1 tsp fish sauce
- 3 medium carrots, cut into chunks
- 1 small yellow onion, quartered
- 1 1/2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 2 tbsp canola oil
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tbsp cool water
- 1 head Boston lettuce, separated into leaves (or similar broad, tender lettuce)

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the soy sauce, honey, ginger, garlic powder, hot sauce and fish sauce. Set aside.

2. In a food processor, combine carrots and onion. Pulse until finely chopped. Add chicken, then pulse several times to begin chopping chicken. Add sauce, then continue pulsing just until chicken is well chopped, but not ground.

3. In a large skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the chicken and cook, stirring often and breaking up any clumps, until cooked through, about 8 minutes. In a small glass, stir together the cornstarch and water, then add to the skillet. Stir and cook for another 2 minutes.

4. Transfer the chicken to one side of a serving platter. Arrange the lettuce leaves on the other side. Diners help themselves by spooning the chicken into individual leaves, using the leaves as they would a sandwich wrap.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Sabres' Nicolas Deslauriers chases after a loose puck against Flames Kris Russell and goalie Joni Ortio on Tuesday at the Scotiabank Saddledome.
JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flames beat up on struggling Sabres

NHL. Cammalleri pots 20th goal against goalie making his NHL debut

Mike Cammalleri's 20th goal of the season midway through the third period was the game-winner Tuesday night as the Calgary Flames downed the visiting Buffalo Sabres 3-1.

Calgary's Mikael Backlund beat Matt Ellis on a faceoff in the Sabres' end, drawing the puck back to Chris Butler. From the blue-line, Butler's shot towards the net was neatly deflected by Cammalleri past Nathan Lieuwen.

Cammalleri has been red-hot in March with seven goals in his last nine games. That came after a stretch leading up to the NHL trade deadline in which he had one goal in 14 games.

The 31-year-old, who will be an unrestricted free agent this summer if he doesn't re-sign, takes over the team lead in goals from rookie Sean Monahan.

Joe Colborne and Paul Byron also scored for Calgary (28-34-7). Chris Butler added two assists as the Flames won for the ninth time in their last 11 games at the Scotiabank Saddledome.

Drew Stafford scored for Buffalo (19-42-8). The last-place Sabres, who have dropped seven games in a row, entered the night 11 points back of 29th place Edmonton.

After trading Ryan Miller to the St. Louis Blues at the deadline, the Sabres were poised to move forward with the goaltending tandem of Jhonas Enroth and newly picked up Michal Neuvirth.

However, injuries to both of them resulted in the Sabres opening a five-game road trip with Lieuwen, 22, making his NHL debut while his back-up — with 13 NHL games of experience — was Matt Hackett.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Tuesday

Flames	Sabres
3	1

Miggy pulls the trigger

Miguel Cabrera hit a long solo home run and a sacrifice fly as a Detroit Tigers split squad lost to the New York Mets 5-4 Tuesday in Port St. Lucie, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Knicks introduce president Jackson

Phil Jackson has returned to the New York Knicks as their team president.

The Knicks announced Jackson's hiring Tuesday at a news conference in the lobby of Madison Square Garden, where a giant sign reading "Welcome Home Phil" was overhead and shirts with the No. 18 Jackson wore as a player lined the merchandise store.

Jackson signed a five-year contract that reportedly will pay him at least $12 million annually and said he will spend significant time in New York.

"This is the best place to play basketball," Jackson said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Knicks team president Phil Jackson GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Iggy helps Bruins stay hot vs. Devils

Brad Marchand and Jarome Iginla scored in a 59-second span early in the second period and the Boston Bruins beat the New Jersey Devils 4-2 on Tuesday night for their 10th straight win.

Iginla's goal was the 556th of his career, tying him with Bruins great John Bucyk for 25th place in NHL history.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romero comes unravelled in Jays loss

Ricky Romero's comeback bid hit another road bump Tuesday in an ugly 18-4 Jays loss to a Detroit Tigers split squad.

The Toronto plan was for Romero and Marcus Stroman to combine for nine innings, with none of Toronto's established bullpen members along for the ride. Instead the Tigers treated Romero, Jeremy Jeffress, Stroman and Marcus Walden like batting practice pitchers.

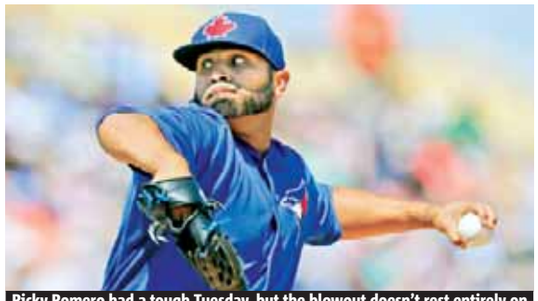
Romero gave up a two-run homer to Austin Jackson in the second after hitting a Tiger to put him on base and yielded another run in an unsightly third inning that featured a triple, four walks and two wild pitches. It could have been far worse but two Tigers were caught stealing in the inning.

The left-hander exited after 2 2/3 innings, giving way to Jeffress. Unofficially Romero threw 57 pitches, 23 for strikes on a sunny day in Lakeland Fla.

"We've taken too many steps forward to dwell on this," Romero said afterwards.

Romero and Jeffress walked eight between them in the first four innings.

Things continued to fall apart when Stroman gave up a walk, four singles and a grand slam homer to Don Kelly in a fifth inning that went from bad to worse. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ricky Romero had a tough Tuesday, but the blowout doesn't rest entirely on his shoulders. He was pulled long before the Jays gave up nine runs in the fifth inning to give the Tigers a 13-0 lead. CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trafford's death leaves multitude of questions

DAVE LANGFORD
Metro in London, Ont.

Saginaw Spirit players hold up sticks as pallbearers carry the casket of Terry Trafford after his funeral in Toronto on Tuesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The tragic suicide of Saginaw Spirit hockey player Terry Trafford has left a trail of tears and trauma, almost too much to handle for the powerful major junior hockey community.

The funeral was Tuesday in Toronto, but the questions began the day it was first reported that the Ontario Hockey League player had gone missing.

Yes, it appears mistakes were made in relaying news to Trafford and his family that the 20-year-old had been dropped from the team and was not welcome back this season. That much we seem to know.

But what about the policies and procedures of major junior hockey teams in the wake of the senseless tragedy?

Dr. Natascha Wesch, a former star athlete with the Canadian women's rugby team and now a sports psychologist based in London, is closer than most to the epicentre of the bureaucratic earthquake that may lay ahead.

She is the help needed when the London Knights organization senses trouble with players off the ice.

"I don't think the OHL has a policy that somebody must be there," Wesch said in an interview with Metro. "Does each team call on someone? I would say that no, not each team has somebody. Now should each team? Absolutely."

The reasons, Wesch said, for looking deeper into the league issues following Trafford's death are more than they appear on the surface.

"I think not only from the psychological, emotional and just the right thing to do, but also from a liability perspective," she said. "If you think from just a business perspective, pure and simple business, if I have an employee that comes in drunk, I just can't let them go home. I have to provide for their safety and make sure I call a cab and do all those things."

Wesch said a professional outside the team's management, player agents and billets are needed to provide confidential help to the junior hockey players, on a moment's notice if needed.

"These athletes are physically ready to play. They're potentially, I will argue, emotionally ready to play, but once something breaks down, who is there to help them recover and put the pieces back together?

"Well, if your leg breaks, you've got a physician there. If your tooth breaks, you've got a dentist there. If your brain, if you will, your psyche breaks, well you're supposed to figure that out all on your own because you are a tough hockey player."

That, Wesch said, is what needs to change immediately. It's just unfortunate a player had to die before the discussion began.

"That's what needs to happen sometimes. Look at the Sidney Crosby situation. How many people had concussions before him, but all of a sudden it became important," she said.

World championship

Homan hammers Scots in Saint John

Canada's Rachel Homan improves to 6-1 at the women's world curling championship with an 8-3 win over Scotland on Tuesday.

Homan and her Ottawa Curling Club scored two in the first and third ends and stole single points in the eighth and ninth. The Scots shook hands after nine ends.

Canada defeated Latvia 8-4 earlier in the day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Roy's Avs tricked by Vanek in MTL

Thomas Vanek had a hat trick to lift Montreal to a 6-3 win over the Colorado Avalanche in former Canadiens great Patrick Roy's first game at the Bell Centre as an NHL head coach.

Brandon Prust, who left the game late in the first period with an apparent shoulder injury, returned to score a goal and set up one by Travis Moen for Montreal (38-25-7), which won its third game in a row.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

First Four

Albany sets up date with Gators

D.J. Evans scored 22 points, including two clinching free throws with 12.6 seconds left, to lead Albany to its first NCAA tournament victory, 71-64 over Mount St. Mary's on Tuesday night in the First Four.

The Great Danes (19-14) advance to meet No. 1 seed and top-ranked Florida on Thursday. Peter Hooley had 20 points and Gary Johnson 13 for Albany, winless in its three previous NCAA trips.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Smile big in the 2014 Mini Cooper

PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2014 Mini Cooper

- **Type.** Two-door, front-wheel-drive sub-compact hatchback
- **Engines (hp).** 1.5-litre DOHC I3, turbocharged (134); 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (189).
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $22,750

Fuel economy

The base Cooper's already-decent fuel economy should improve to about 6.9 l/100 km in the city and 5.4 on the highway with the six-speed stick (up from 7.4/5.7).

Design

The length of the two-door hatchback (Mini insists on calling it a hardtop) has increased by 11.5 centimetres, all ahead of the doors. That's also where the most obvious changes occur, including the trapezoidal grille and blacked-out bumper. The windshield is also a little steeper, which gives the Mini a sleeker appearance.

Review. The same . . . but totally different? This shouldn't really come as a surprise to anyone

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Some cars can make you smile, whether you're behind the wheel, riding as a passenger, or watching them drive down the street.

Since its 2002 model-year arrival, the Mini Cooper has enjoyed a growing number of admirers, due in no small part to the Mini brand adding more and more models.

The third-generation BMW-built Mini, which goes on sale this spring, should elicit the same appreciative grins even if to the casual observer it appears much the same as before.

Hard-core Mini fans will, however, note significant changes afoot everywhere, which is because virtually every aspect of the Mini Cooper is brand new.

The extra 4.5 centimetres in width is good news for passengers and should also make for flatter cornering. As well, an extra three centimeres between the front and rear wheels doesn't sound like much, but for rear-seat riders, who can now recline the split-folding back cushion for added comfort, every little bit helps. There's also slightly more stowage space with the rear seat in the upright position.

The rest of the cabin has undergone a major retooling. Most obvious, the centre-stack-mounted speedometer has been relocated to the steering column. It's flanked by a half-moon tachometer to the left and the fuel gauge lights on the right.

The clock-like centre-stack pod carries over and houses the infotainment, communications and navigation systems that are controlled by a rotary dial on the floor console. Near it are pushbuttons for the air conditioning, ventilation and seat warmers plus toggle switches for other functions such as traction and stability control that reduce the likelihood of skids and spins in adverse conditions.

Easily the most radical change is found under the hood as there are two new powerplants. Base models run with a turbocharged 1.5-litre three-cylinder that puts out 134 horsepower and 162 pound-feet of torque. That's up considerably from the previous non-turbo 1.6-litre four-cylinder's 121 horsepower and relatively puny 114 pound-feet of torque.

Moving up to the Cooper S puts you in control of a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder with 189 horsepower and 207 pound-feet of torque (the 2013 Cooper S generated 181 horses and 208 pound-feet of torque).

The new standard six-speed manual transmission has a more precise shift linkage, while a six-speed automatic is optional.

Both engines feature an overboost function to provide a bit more torque for a few seconds (good for added passing power) when the gas pedal is floored. Overboost also helps the base cars achieve a zero-to-100 km/h time of 7.9 seconds, versus 8.6 seconds for the previous base four-cylinder. The Cooper S can do it in 6.8 seconds (previously 7.0), as measured by Mini.

For 2014, the base price is $22,750, including destination charges, but there are several new options that could tempt you to spend more. They include an adjustable suspension with Comfort and Sport settings as well as a Head-Up-Display that projects speed and basic navigation info onto a dash-mounted pop-up monitor. The oddest accessory is the self-park feature to guide a skills-deficient Mini driver into an appropriate spot. Honestly, anyone unable to parallel-park a car this small should consider purchasing a bus pass.

However, the additions and improvements to the Mini Cooper give it more of a real-car persona, which makes it feel less like a novelty. That should also make it much easier to justify as a purchase and much easier to live with.

Compare

1 Fiat 500
Base price: $17,700

2 Volkswagen Golf
Base price: $21,000

3 Hyundai Elantra
Base price: $19,900

Electric Alaska without the worry

AutoKnow. Out here you want to focus on experiencing life and not be concerned about making it home. The Chevy Volt makes the perfect playmate

GARRY SOWERBY
wheelbasemedia.com

The burning question about electric cars is how well they work in the real world. Not some urban area with two-kilometre daily commutes and electrical outlets every 10 steps.

Out in the "real world" there's the dreaded range anxiety, where you just don't know how far, exactly, your car will take you. It's not like there's a charge station on every corner and you have three hours to kill waiting for a battery top-up. In Alaska, if you run out . . .

It doesn't get much more real than that. As event planners, my wife, Lisa Calvi, and I changed hotels 10 times in less than two weeks during an extended business trip here.

Hey, I'm cranky for it, and for a morning guy who is rarely out of sorts, my mood is as much a surprise to me as my unsuspecting wife.

"I'm sorry Lisa, I'll snap out of it," I offer, realizing this will be our only day off before getting back to work.

We pack our suitcases and office supplies into the hatchback of the Chevrolet Volt. This is a normal car, I remind myself, stuffing the last of the suitcases into the cargo area, which is massive with the rear seats folded down.

We head south out of Anchorage toward the Kenai Peninsula. Lisa and I booked a six-hour glacier cruise out of Whittier and have an appointment at the "tunnel" which is the only land connection from the port of Whittier to the rest of the world.

We clear Anchorage and follow the highway along Turnagain Arm. The tides are low and the mudflats seem endless. As my brooding levels out,

Impressive

The Volt's agility and comfort surprises me. This is not a fad car or something that has to be babied or fussed over..

Peace of mind

It doesn't matter that we're driving about 300 kilometres that day. Once the battery runs down, an on-board four-cylinder gasoline-powered generator will kick in and extend our range for another 500 or so kilometres..

the silent, comfortable ride of the Volt reminds me that we are indeed running on electricity and will be for about 50 kilometres.

It doesn't matter that we're driving about 300 kilometres that day. Once the battery runs down, an on-board four-cylinder gasoline-powered generator will kick in and extend our range for another 500 or so kilometres. Sure we might consume some fossil fuel, but there is no pesky "my-battery-is-running-low-range-anxiety" with the Volt.

The idea of leaving home for a weekend road trip with an electric vehicle is normally a dicey proposition, unless the plan doesn't involve much driving, because range is short and charging takes a long time . . . if you can find somewhere to charge.

That makes the Chevy Volt a compelling alternative. It's an electric car that doesn't need a back-up vehicle beside it in the driveway.

It doesn't take long to cheer up. The scenery is stunning. A glacier here, snow-capped mountain there. With a little luck we might see the "tidal bore," a wall of rushing water that marks the changing of the tides on Turnagain Arm.

We make our tunnel time and file through a three-kilometre railway tunnel with a line of other cars and trucks en route to rustic Whittier. Cool.

From Whittier, the cruise through Prince William Sound is a spellbinding affair that stops briefly at a remote fish hatchery where salmon are jumping, rafts of sea otters are frisking and bald eagles swooping. It's like an advertisement for animal heaven. Later we swing close to Surprise Glacier where the Captain cuts the engines so we can see and "hear" the glaciers. Creek, wham, slam. It has been going on for millions of years.

Back in Whittier, I power up the Volt. The battery charge is depleted but the four-cylinder gasoline generator engine keeps the charge between 20 and 29 per cent so we're not concerned about anything but making the tunnel appointment time to get us back to the main road.

Alaska is full of interesting wildlife like whales ...

... and a healthy seal population.

The drive south through the Kenai Peninsula is nothing short of spectacular. Unearthly blue glaciers casually hang off some of them. We take a detour to tiny Hope and feast on the best fish and chips ever at Seaview Café.

The Volt's agility and comfort surprises me. This is not a fad car or something that has to be babied or fussed over. Plug it into a 110-volt power supply overnight or a 220-volt outlet for a few hours and it's ready to fulfill most commuting requirements. Pack it up for the weekend and take it wherever you want to.

Later that night we pull into Seward at the southern end of the peninsula. Plenty of activities are available there from glacier helicopter hiking to sea kayaking and dog sledding. We check into the Van Gilder, Seward's oldest hotel that is supposed to be haunted by the ghost of a woman murdered there in 1950.

"You want the room where it happened?" the pleasant receptionist asks. "We'll pass," I respond, checking out the slack look on Lisa's face.

"Do you have a place to plug in my car? It's a Chevy Volt and charging it tonight will give me an electrified head-start tomorrow."

There's no outside receptacle. It doesn't matter though, because the Chevy Volt is one electric car that can live in the real world.

The Volt is an electric car that you don't have to charge up, although that's not the most efficient way to drive it. But that does mean you can take it as far as you like, without a power plug, as long as there are gas stations. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

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6.3L/100km 45MPG HWY*** 9.5L/100km 30MPG CITY***

Offers include $500 in Manufacturer Rebate and $1,715 freight and air tax

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2014 ACCENT 4-DR L

GLS model shown♦
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LAST DAY MARCH 24TH
SELLING PRICE: $13,749*
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2014 SONATA

Limited model shown♦
$1,500 + 0% IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[◇] PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS
LAST DAY MARCH 24TH
SELLING PRICE: $24,149*
SONATA GL AUTO. $1,500 PRICE ADJUSTMENT[◇]. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

March 2014
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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2014 SANTA FE SPORT

Limited model shown♦
$2,000 + 0% IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[◇] PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS
LAST DAY MARCH 24TH
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Hey, that sinkhole eight my classic Corvettes!

The 1962 Corvette was the first one out of the sinkhole, and sustained less damage than one might have expected for such a mishap. Eight museum Corvettes took the plunge. Three are still down there. GENERAL MOTORS

Every cloud ... The positive side of this story is that museum attendance is up and three of the cars have been salvaged so far

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The sinkhole at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, which swallowed eight historic Corvettes last month, was certainly bad news for Corvette fans and the museum.

But museum attendance and interest is up since the sinkhole, so not all bad I guess…

People are obviously fascinated with the spectacle and drama of a sinkhole. Throw in some super-special Corvettes, and suddenly you have a major-league attraction on your hands.

One report I read also noted that museum patrons are even fascinated with all the "crane action" going on. The cranes are part of the efforts to extricate the fallen 'Vettes.

Big cranes. Cool sports cars. Big sinkhole. Now that's a museum even a 10-year-old ADD boy could love. I wonder if they're taking notes over at the Royal Ontario, Glenbow, and National Gallery; maybe even contemplating how one or two of their more esoteric exhibits might benefit from a similar sinkhole makeover.

The 1962 Corvette was the first to get rescued, lifted out of the sinkhole nose first. Engineers then successfully extracted the 2009 Corvette ZR-1 "Blue Devil" and a 1993 40th anniversary model Corvette. All three were in surprisingly good shape, considering.

The remaining cars had more stuff fall on top of them and are more heavily damaged. As of this writing, three 'Vettes are still in the sinkhole: a one-off ZR1 Spyder; the 2001 Mallett Hammer Z06, and the 1.5 millionth Corvette.

Construction crews need to continue to stabilize the walls of the sinkhole before attempting to vacuum out the dirt from around those remaining cars. But they are sure to be rescued at some point, and then they will likely join the other "survivors" in a special display, before they all get made new again. The sinkhole is in the Skydome, a separate structure from the main museum. While the Skydome is off-limits for now, the main museum remains open.

There are two adjoining walls between the buildings. One wall features a video monitor, which shows live webcam footage of the work going on in the Skydome. The other features a plexi-glass viewing area.

Sinkholes are not uncommon in Kentucky, one of several U.S. states especially prone to them, by virtue of the Karst topography, a landscape largely formed by the dissolving action of water on soft bedrock (usually limestone).

Corvettes have been made exclusively in Kentucky, at the Bowling Green Assembly Plant, since 1981. I guess it was only a matter of time then, before those two great Kentucky forces collided.

The Sinkholed Eight

- 1962 black Corvette
- 1984 PPG Pace Car
- 1992 white 1 millionth Corvette
- 1993 ZR1 Spyder
- 1993 40th anniversary Corvette
- 2001 Mallett Hammer Z06 Corvette
- 2009 ZR1 "Blue Devil"
- 2009 white 1.5 millionth Corvette

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you make a wish over the next two or three days, it may come true. With the Sun moving into your birth sign tomorrow, marking the start of a new solar year, you are likely to get whatever you ask for.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Whatever information you may have that others do not you should treat it like gold dust today. The less others know about what you are up to, the more you will benefit.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you play your cards right over the next few days, there is every chance that some of your big dreams will start to come true. The dividing line between fantasy and reality is quite narrow.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Important people are watching you closely, so make sure they like what they see. The Sun's move into the career area of your chart tomorrow will energize you and make you more ambitious.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Make sure facts are on your side if you want to make an issue out of something. Remember, it's not enough to tell others that they are doing it wrong. They also need to be shown how to do it right.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If your sixth sense tells you that something isn't quite right, listen to it and refrain from doing anything that might lead you down the wrong path — especially financially.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
As the Sun is about to move into the relationship area of your chart you should make more of an effort to get along with the people around you, even those you don't like.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need to start thinking about cutting back on work. The past few weeks have been a time of great activity and your momentum will keep you going for a while yet, but your body needs a break.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No matter how difficult the past few weeks have been, your affairs will improve dramatically as of tomorrow. Cheer up and stop acting as if the world is about to end.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun's change of signs tomorrow means you can come to grips with a family issue that has been causing you plenty of grief. Let loved ones know what you think and how you feel and invite them to be honest with you as well.

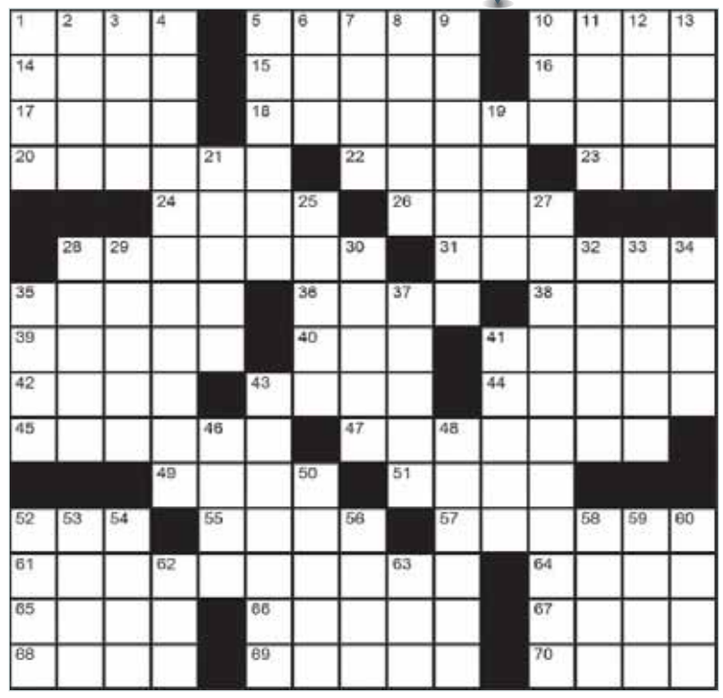
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The more you are on the move over the next few days, the more likely it is you will find answers to the questions you have been asking. You may not be thrilled by some of the things you learn but the truth is about facts, not feelings.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Good news concerning your finances is coming your way in the next few days. You won't get something for nothing but you'll at least have more cash in your pocket. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

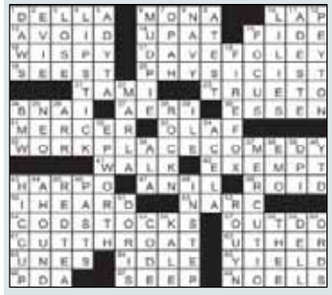
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Ointment
5. House's behind-the-walls sights
10. __ Lake, Alberta
14. Parkay, for one
15. Totally ticked
16. Cleaving tool
17. Sham
18. "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" cast member: 2 wds.
20. Turn to for trusty support: 2 wds.
22. Website's main page
23. Stylish sash
24. Glass-making stuff
26. Fly elegantly
28. Venezuela's capital
31. Takes the pen's 'lid' off
35. Full range
36. "__ Lap" (1983)
38. Vegan's no-no
39. __ and beyond
40. Geological period
41. Book part
42. Wine, in Italy
43. What 'i' has on top, _ __
44. Sound-making cow
45. Immerse
47. Terri Clark hit: "Poor, Poor __ Me"
49. Chesterfield
51. Jan & Dean's "__ City"
52. Perform
55. Ms. Del Rey
57. Peanut butter brand
61. 1990 Kiefer Sutherland movie in which Julia Roberts also starred
64. Concern
65. Glowing light
66. Countrified
67. All square
68. Stack of paper
69. Gradient
70. George W. Bush, et al.

Down
1. 1922 Nobel Prize in Physics winner, Niels __
2. Cosmetic cream's content
3. Actress, Sharon __
4. "King of Spain": Hit tune for what Canadian band?: 2 wds.
5. Checked blanket dining experience
6. Mr. Levin
7. Way
8. Set of values
9. British actress Jane
10. Corp. bigwig concerned with money
11. "Deal __ __ Deal"
12. Singer/songwriter Lisa
13. Mr. Arnaz
19. Former PM Mr. Chretien
21. Pontificate
25. Recorded
27. Red coat wearing police person: acr. + word
28. Log abode
29. Surrounded by
30. Salt-n-Pepa song
32. Friends to 'and sometimes Y'
33. __ truck
34. 'Trick' suffix
35. Handed
37. 'Nay' sides in debates
41. Insincere smile
43. Matters
46. __ around (Lounge)
48. Bitty brawl
50. Overturn
52. From way out there
53. Crossword __
54. Charlottetown-born singer Ms. MacLean
56. Prefix with 'dynamic'
58. Finish a road
59. Get set
60. Cravings
62. Glasgow topper
63. Knock

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

9		8		2		5	1	
	1	6						
			1					7
2		5	8					
1			2		3			6
					7	1		8
5					4			
						3	8	
	3	7		1		9		4

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	2	1	3	7	6	9	8
9	8	6	5	2	4	1	7	3
7	1	3	8	6	9	2	4	5
2	7	5	4	1	8	9	3	6
6	3	1	9	7	2	5	8	4
4	9	8	6	5	3	7	2	1
3	5	7	2	8	6	4	1	9
8	6	4	7	9	1	3	5	2
1	2	9	3	4	5	8	6	7

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 7° MIN: -2°	MAX: -1° MIN: -3°	MAX: -7° MIN: -14°

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